



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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DEFENDANT FROM WIRETAP CASE SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING A FIREARM BY A CONVICTED FELON

– Reginald Rice, a convicted felon, admitted to possessing a firearm which was connected to the drug trafficking and gun conspiracy charges dismissed in August of 2007

LOUISVILLE, KY - Reginald Rice, age 34, of Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, was sentenced to 37 months in prison for possessing a firearm by a convicted felon, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today. John Heyburn, Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Rice to 3 years supervised release and forfeited the firearm and ammunition involved in the offense. Since Rice spent over 36 months in federal custody, the Court credit-time served his prison sentence. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

Rice was one of eleven defendants in the wiretap case pending before Judge Russell, which was dismissed in August of last year, after the suppression of the wiretap evidence was upheld on appeal. Rice was the only remaining defendant in this case.¹

On November 5, 2007, Rice, who was convicted of a felony drug possession charge in Jefferson Circuit Court in 1996, admitted that he possessed a firearm in April of 2004. The firearm was a Glock, Model 23, .40 Smith & Wesson caliber semi-automatic handgun, bearing serial number BLY845US.

¹In August of 2007, co-defendant Terrell Gray pled guilty to a gun charge related to the drug trafficking conspiracy (possession of a firearm by a convicted felon).

This firearm was connected to the gun and drug trafficking conspiracy charged in the wiretap case, originally indicted in September of 2004, which was ultimately dismissed against all eleven defendants except for Rice. The drug trafficking charges in the Indictment could not go forward against Rice (and the other defendants) without the wiretap evidence. Rice, who was convicted of felony drug possession in Jefferson Circuit Court in 1996 cannot lawfully possess a firearm.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amy Sullivan and Philip C. Chance. The Louisville and Atlanta Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Atlanta Police Department, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

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